

Ban on Non-Government Organisations

6. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to ban the activities of Non-Government Organisations working for the upliftment of weaker sections of the society in the entire country; and

(b) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNMALA D. SAVANOOR): (a) No, Sir. The Government does not propose to ban the activities of the Non-Government Organisations working for the upliftment of weaker sections of the society in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

Prices of Medicines

7. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the charging of high cost of medicines by the retailers in Delhi as has been brought out in the print media some time in the past;

(b) If so, whether the Government propose to open chemists shops in the hospitals through the Super Bazar and the Kendriya Bhandar to sell the drugs at nominal margin; and

(c) If so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As per information received from Department of Chemicals & Petro Chemicals, under the existing policy, approximately 50 per cent of the formulations are under price control and such formulations are sold at price fixed by the Government. However, in the case of formulations outside the purview of price control, companies are free to fix their own prices.

(b) and (c) According to information available, Super Bazar is selling all drugs at maximum retail price (M.R.P.) through their outlets.

Poverty Elimination Scheme

8. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are more than 200 schemes aimed at bringing out the poor from their miserable lot;

(b) whether all of them are being implemented at present;

(c) If so, the details thereof;

(d) whether these schemes have any impact on reducing poverty in the country; and

(e) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNMALA D. SAVANOOR): (a) to (c) The major centrally sponsored poverty alleviation programmes being implemented in the country are Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) in the rural areas and Nehru Rojgar Yojana (NRY), Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PM's IUPEP), and Urban Basic Services for Poor (UBSP) in urban areas. The details of these poverty alleviation programmes are given in the attached Statement.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir, As per the Lakdawala Expert Committee on poverty estimates, the percentage of people living below the poverty line has declined from 44.48% in 1983 to 38.56% in 1987-88 and it has been further reduced to 35.97% in 1993-94.

Statement*Rural Poverty Alleviation Programmes:*

(i) **Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP):** IRDP is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme being implemented in all the blocks of the country since 1980. Under this scheme Central funds are allocated to States on the basis of proportion of rural poor in a State to the total rural poor in the country.

IRDP aims at providing self-employment opportunities to the rural poor through assistance in the form of subsidy and bank credit to enable them to acquire productive assets and appropriate skills to cross the poverty line on a sustained basis. The target group consists largely of small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and rural artisans whose household annual income is below the poverty line of Rs. 11000 at 1991-92 prices. Within the target group there is an ensured coverage of certain categories-SC/ST 50%; women 40%; and physically handicapped 3%. The ceiling for subsidy is Rs. 6,000 for SC/ST families and the physically handicapped; for others Rs. 5,000 in Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) areas and Rs. 4,000 in the non-Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) areas. Recently, a new category of trained literate youth has been introduced for which admissible subsidy is 50 per cent of the project cost or Rs. 7,500 whichever is less. Further, for a group of five beneficiaries subsidy has been increased to 50 per cent of the project cost or Rs. 1.25 lakh whichever is less.

Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM) and Development of Women & Children in Rural Areas (DWCR) are two important sub-schemes of Integrated Rural Development Programme.

(ii) **Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY):** The JRY is a wage